

7/DE 03/03273 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7. G01M15/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) GO1M FO2D Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X EP 0 823 622 A (TOYOTA MOTOR CO LTD) 1-8 11 February 1998 (1998-02-11) abstract page 5, line 47 - page 7, line 36 claims 1,2,4figure 3 Α US 5 809 969 A (DEGROOT KENNETH P ET AL) 22 September 1998 (1998-09-22) abstract claims X US 5 287 736 A (NAKAYAMA MASAAKI ET AL) 1-3.622 February 1994 (1994-02-22) abstract column 5, line 44 - line 57 column 14, line 13 - line 42 -/--X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: 'T' later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the 'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the International "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 26 February 2004 05/03/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2

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